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R 161208Z JAN 86
FM USDAO (ISLAMABAD) PK
TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC//AT-6/AT-3/DB-2C/DT-1C/DB-4E/DB-4G//
RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC//JSI-381//OC-1(CCF)//OC-4A/VP-A1//
INFO RUEHMY/USDAO MOSCOW UR
BT
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SUBJ: IIR 6 873 0005 86 BORDER SUCCESS: AFGHAN
39-7 DOWNED (U)

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2. (U) ARTICLES CONCERNING THE RUMOURED DOWNING OF AN AFGHAN JET APPEARED IN 16 JAN 86 EDITION OF PAKISTAN TIMES AND MUSLIM. THE MUSLIM ARTICLE WHICH WAS MORE COMPLETE THAN WHAT THE PAKISTAN TIMES REPORTED INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING QUOTE:
PESHAWAR, JAN 15: OFFICIALS WERE EITHER DENYING OR KEEPING MUM OVER THE INCIDENT ON THE PAK AFGHAN BORDER IN KURRUM AGENCY WHERE AN AFGHAN PLANE WAS REPORTEDLY SHOT DOWN YESTERDAY MORNING.
BUT CONFUSION NONETHELESS CONTINUED IN THE ABSENCE OF AN OFFICIAL CLARIFICATION. EFFORTS BY THIS CORRESPONDENT TO CONTACT THE POLITICAL AGENT OF KURRUM AGENCY IN PARACHINAR, THE COMMISSIONER KOHAT DIVISION, AND THE HOME SECRETARY IN PESHAWAR MET WITH

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SOME IN IMPORTANT ENVIRONMENT.

HOWEVER, THE HOME SECRETARY WHILE TALKING TO SOME OTHER NEWSMAN CONTRADICTED THE NEWS ABOUT THE DOWNING OF THE PLANE AND CONTENDED THAT NO SUCH INCIDENT HAS TAKEN PLACE ON THIS SIDE OF THE BORDER. PAKISTAN HE SAID WAS IN NO WAY INVOLVED IN ANY SUCH INCIDENT. REPORTS CIRCULATING IN PESHAWAR (AND DULY REPORTED BY A RAWALPINDI URDU DAILY) SAID ONE OF THE FOUR AFGHAN MIG PLANES WHICH INTRUDED INTO PAKISTANI TERRITORY AT 7:45 A.M. YESTERDAY WAS SHOT DOWN WHEN ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS FIRED AT IT NEAR KHARLACHI //3350N 6957E//. IT WAS REPORTED THAT THE PILOT OF THE MIG WAS KILLED WHILE THE OTHER THREE PLANES MADE GOOD THEIR ESCAPE. TELEPHONIC ENQUIRIES IN PARACHINAR CONFIRMED THE INTRUSION OF THE AFGHAN JETS YESTERDAY MORNING, FLYING FOR QUITE SOME TIME OVER THE PAKISTAN AIR TERRITORY FROM NORTH TO SOUTH. A HOTELIER SAID THEIR WERE RUMOURS IN PARACHINAR OF A PLANE HAVING BEEN HIT, BUT NOBODY WAS PREPARED TO CONFIRM THE NEWS. THE PUBLIC CALL OFFICE AT KHARLACHI, RIGHT ON THE PAK-AFGHAN BORDER, MADE IT CLEAR THAT NO PLANE HAD BEEN DOWNED ON THIS SIDE OF THE BORDER. BUT THEY DID NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF THE PLANE HAVING BEEN HIT INSIDE AFGHANISTAN. THEY ALSO INFORMED THAT PAKISTANI OFFICIALS, INCLUDING POLITICAL AUTHORITIES, SECURITY PERSONNEL AND SCOUTS, HAD VISITED THE BORDER AREA FOLLOWING YESTERDAY'S INCIDENT.

UNQUOTE.

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